

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (New) A position locating system comprising a radio receiving base station and a plurality of portable radio transmitter/receiver devices each having means for determining an instantaneous global position for said device and adapted to signal said position to the base station, each device also being adapted to monitor transmissions from other devices within the system and to relay said messages from one device to another, whereby a message from a device out of range of the base station can be relayed to the base station.

Claim 18. (New) A position locating system according to Claim 18, wherein said device is a portable cellular telephone handset which can communicate with a cellular telephone network.

Claim 19. (New) A position locating system according to Claim 18, further comprising switching means adapted to switch communication between the device and said global positioning system and said cellular network, wherein said switching means is activated in response to the signal strength of said global positioning system and said cellular network.

Claim 20. (New) A position locating system according to Claim 18, further comprising switching means adapted to switch communication between the device and said global positioning system and said cellular network, wherein said switching means is activated in response to the accuracy of the position determined by said global positioning system and said cellular network.

Claim 21. (New) A position locating system according to Claim 17, further comprising trigger means to activate the device to transmit an alarm call to a communications centre.

Claim 22. (New) A position locating system according to Claim 21, wherein said trigger means comprises a panic button adapted to transmit a coded signal via a radio transceiver to said device.

Claim 23. (New) A position locating system according to Claim 22, wherein said transceiver is adapted to activate other said devices in the vicinity to cause them to transmit an alarm signal.

Claim 24. (New) A position locating system according to Claim 21, wherein said trigger means comprises a switch activated by unauthorised movement of equipment provided with a said device.

Claim 25. (New) A position locating system according to Claim 17, further comprising an inertial navigation system to augment the position location capability of the said system.

Claim 26. (New) A method of transmitting position data from any one of a plurality of portable radio transmitter/receiver devices to a radio receiving base station, each device having means for determining an instantaneous global position for said device and being adapted to signal said position to the base station, the method comprising monitoring at each device transmissions from other devices within the system and relaying said messages from one device to another, whereby a message from a device out of range of the base station can be relayed to the base station.

Claim 27. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 26, wherein each said transmitter/receiver device is a portable cellular telephone handset which can communicate with a cellular telephone network.

Claim 28. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 26, wherein trigger means activate the device to transmit an alarm call to a communications centre.

Claim 29. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein said trigger means comprises a panic button adapted to transmit a coded signal via a radio transceiver to said device.

Claim 30. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein said transceiver activates other said devices in the vicinity to cause them to transmit an alarm signal.

Claim 30. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein said trigger means comprises a switch activated by unauthorised movement of equipment provided with a said device.

Claim 31. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 26, further comprising an inertial navigation system to augment the position location capability of the said method.